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## SWEEPING CHANGES IN MAKEUP OF U. S. ARMY PLANNED BY BOARD

Scheme Includes Force of Ten Thousand Men for Oahu with  
Large Reserve Composed of Men Who Have Served  
Their Time With the Colors

Sweeping changes in the make-up of the United States army, which are of special interest to Oahu, are embodied in the report of the General Staff. If carried out, the scheme will include not only a force of 10,000 men for Hawaii, as announced some months ago, but also a large reserve force composed of soldiers who have served their time with the colors, and who will then be encouraged to remain in the Territory as Federal reservists.

The General Staff has completed its plans for an entire reorganization and increase of this country's military establishment, a work upon which it has been engaged ever since it was founded some months ago. Although the report containing these plans is now in type, it will probably not be presented to Congress at this session, owing to the fact that members of the Senate and House Committees on Military Affairs desire ample time in which to consider all the provisions recommended by the General Staff. Among those most active in the conferences on these plans are Senator Root of New York, former Secretary of War, and Senator DuPont, of Delaware, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs.

The plan for the reorganization of the army, as drawn up by the General Staff, is declared by experts to be the most important and comprehensive piece of constructive work along these lines ever performed in this country. It is also regarded as marking the first schematic military policy yet drawn up for the land forces of the United States. While some of its details have been embodied in Congressional bills or letters of the Secretary of War, the report has never yet been made public in its entirety.

**Be Always Prepared.**  
The great object sought to be gained is the organization of the army on a footing of constant readiness for war, with a permanent expeditionary force always ready for instant service. In order to insure this result, it is recommended that the forces liable for duty anywhere be increased about seven times.

In the regular army the highest proposed unit of organization is raised, and the mobile branches, which include all arms except the coast artillery, are divided into two parts, the foreign and the domestic. The domestic service is to be kept permanently in continental United States while the foreign service is to be sent to American territory elsewhere, to remain, as an organization, outside of this country for good.

In addition to a proposal making for the federalization, within Constitutional limits, of the present National State Guard, the General Staff also asks for the creation of two new types of American soldier; namely, the federal reservist and the federal volunteer, the latter to be recruited in time of peace for war service, and held responsible only to the central government.

The General Staff also recommends that the present regular army be relieved of police duties in Alaska, and suggests that peace be preserved in that district by a federal constabulary to be legislated into existence by Congress. If this suggestion becomes law, the nited States will have, for the first time in its history, a police force, owing its authority directly to the federal government.

In outlining the importance of this reorganization, the General Staff points out that the land forces of the United States are now in no condition to face the armies of a first-class power, and maintains that the necessity for this country so to prepare itself is immediate and imperative.

"Whatever our military institutions may be," says the report, "we must recognize the fundamental fact that victory is the reward of superior force, that modern wars are short and decisive, and that trained armies can alone defeat trained armies."

**Progress Since Spanish War.**  
The report refers to the "close contact recently established" between "great nations and the races," a contact which "tends to become continually closer, due to the increase of population and national needs." The report then goes on to say: "With this close contact thus so recently established comes a competition, commercial, national and racial, whose ultimate seriousness current events already enable us to gauge. Since our conflict with Spain in 1898 practically all of the principal nations of the earth have either been actively engaged in war or else brought to the verge of actual war. The evidence is clear that the nations and races capable of maintaining and protecting themselves are the only ones who can flourish in this world competition."

"In the light of present day conditions it is estimated that at the outbreak of war with a first class power we should be capable of mobilizing at once in the United States an effective force of 460,000 mobile troops and 42,000 Coast Artillery; that this is the minimum number of first line troops necessary, and that to augment this force and replace its losses we should have plans made for raising immediately an additional force of 300,000 men. \* \* \* All

of these forces should be available for service anywhere."

The present land forces of the United States comprise in the regular army about 66,000 men out of a total of 95,500 authorized, and in the National Guard about 125,000 men. The National Guard is not liable for duty on foreign soil, though it can volunteer for this service.

**Change Enlistment.**  
In order to raise the compliment of trained men the General Staff proposes to augment the standing army by changing the terms of the present enlistment contract to conform to the practice "adopted in all other modern armies."

"It is only necessary to provide," says the General Staff report, "that a man's service shall consist of two periods, one period with the colors, and the other a period of war obligation for a limited time after leaving the service. Under these circumstances when war is declared the active army is at once sent into the field and the former soldiers having a war obligation are assembled in depots, where they can be forwarded to the front as needed." The enlistment contract proposed is for six years, divided half and half. However, by far the greatest number of men required for war purposes under the plan proposed by the General Staff, will have to be drawn from civil life. Under present conditions, the General Staff points out, the only citizen soldiers in the United States are furnished by the National Guard, which is under state control and owes only incidental support to the federal government. In time of peace the National Guard can be used only for intra-state purposes, such as the suppression of strikes or breaches of the peace, unless in the very improbable event that it is called upon by the President to serve in quelling disorder in some state. A recent ruling of Attorney General Wickensham declares that under no circumstances can the National Guard be called upon to serve outside of the United States. The General Staff proposes to give Federal pay to National Guardsmen who will comply with federal standards of soldiery and who will also agree in time of war to separate themselves from state control and follow the national colors to any quarter of the globe. This suggestion will, it is thought, get around the constitutional provision which regards the militia wholly as a state force.

**Federal Volunteers.**  
The second supply of citizen soldiers which the General Staff hopes to create in time of peace for war purposes will be organized as federal volunteers. These men will sign articles to support the National government in war, but will not be called upon to serve in intra-State troubles save as a last resource. They are "to be organized under prearranged plans when greater forces are required than can be furnished by the regular army and the organized citizen soldiery. The proper organization of the regular army with the organized division districts of the national guard should include the machinery for the recruiting organization, and mobilization of this third great line of national defense."

This division of the citizen soldiery into State and federal volunteers, says the report, "would afford obvious advantages to all concerned; the National Government would know upon what forces it could count; the States could proportion their forces to local needs and individuals would have the choice of the particular kind of service they preferred; that is, State service with limited war liability or war service only, under the national government."

By way of increasing the efficiency of the army, both regular and volunteer, it is recommended that the present "complex of units without regular grouping" be absorbed. In place of taking the regiment as a field unit, the General Staff advocates the creation of divisions, consisting of nine regiments each of infantry, and brigades comprising three regiments each of cavalry. This plan would necessitate, says the report of the General Staff, an increase in the number of Brigadier Generals to seventeen, as against the present authorized complement of fifteen. The number of major generals, would stay at the present authorized number of six.

**New Divisions.**  
The organization of the regular army on the division basis is declared to be the moving reason for the proposal to reduce the number of army posts from forty-nine to eight, a step which would replace the present dispersal of the regular land forces by a greater concentration. It is proposed to make each of these eight army posts, a division headquarters under the new arrangement. "The rational and economic way of disposing of our troops," says the forthcoming report of the General Staff, "in time of peace is to quarter them in simple but substantial buildings in or near large towns, where all existing utilities may be made use of."

Among the secondary changes recommended by the General Staff is the many army bureaus whose fields or operations overlap or fall to show proper teamwork. A revision of the present system of promotion for officers is also advocated.

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